

May 18, 2004

Yvonne Edwards
Liberty City Health Services Center
1320 N.W. 62nd Street
Miami, FL 33147

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 04-87

Dear Ms. Edwards:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on May 17, 2004 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding any conflicts between your position with the Liberty City Health Services Center and your service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Haitian American Association Against Cancer.

In your request, you advised the Commission that the Liberty City Health Services Center is part of the Jackson Health System. As administrator for the Liberty City Center, you are responsible for all aspects of the center's operation including personnel, budget and community outreach. The center performs many outreach activities in the Haitian community including health fairs, parent groups, public presentations and home visits.

Recently, you were nominated to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Haitian American Association Against Cancer. You were tapped for this role because of your

knowledge of the community and your previous involvement in the Miami-Dade Cancer Prevention Program. Board members are not required to engage in fund-raising activities.

The Haitian American Association Against Cancer receives fifty thousand dollars in funding from the Public Health Trust. You do not participate in the community-based organization funding process for the Public Health Trust.

The Commission found that you may serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Haitian American Association Against Cancer. The Conflict of Interest and Code of ethics ordinance permits you to serve as long as your service on the board does not require you to disclose confidential information or use your position to secure special privileges or exemptions for the organization. Further, you may not vote on any matters related to the Public Health Trust while serving on the board.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding the opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2954 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

Sincerely Yours,

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director